

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

News Release

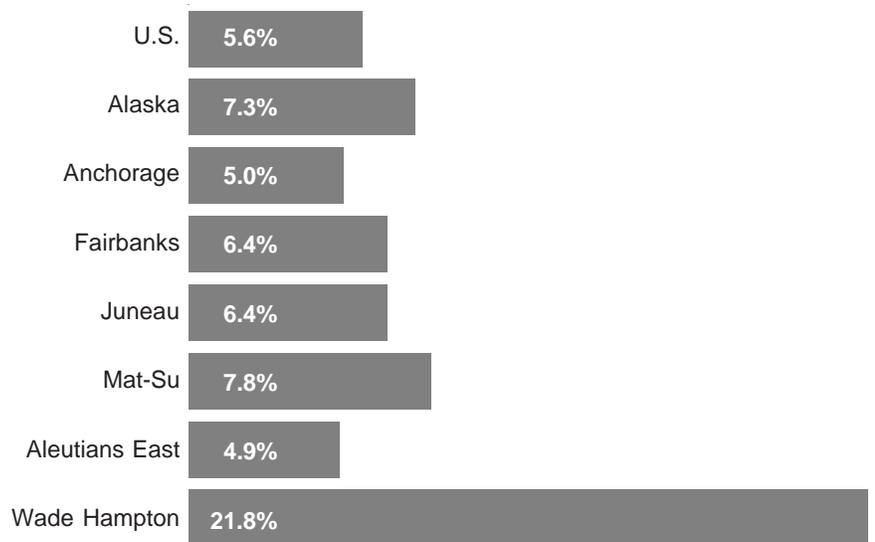
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Unemployment Rate Rises in November

November Unemployment for Selected Areas



(Detailed table on reverse)

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section
All rates not seasonally adjusted

Alaska Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

	preliminary 11/03	revised 10/03	revised 11/02	Changes from	
				10/03	11/02
Total Nonfarm Employment	294,900	303,500	289,600	-8,600	5,300
Natural Resources & Mining	9,600	10,000	10,300	-400	-700
Construction	16,000	18,200	15,500	-2,200	500
Manufacturing	7,400	10,100	7,000	-2,700	400
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	60,500	61,300	59,800	-800	700
Information	7,300	7,200	7,300	100	0
Financial Activities	14,000	14,300	13,400	-300	600
Professional & Business Services	23,600	24,700	22,800	-1,100	800
Education & Health Services	32,700	32,800	30,700	-100	2,000
Leisure & Hospitality	27,200	28,500	27,200	-1,300	0
Other Services	12,700	12,700	12,300	0	400
Government	83,900	83,500	83,300	400	600

Government includes employees of public schools, the University of Alaska, and certain federally-recognized tribal entities.

Benchmark date: March 2002

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate

November 2003:	Alaska 7.5%	U.S. 5.9%
October 2003:	Alaska 7.3%	U.S. 6.0%
November 2002:	Alaska 8.2%	U.S. 5.9%

Alaska's unemployment rate rose five-tenths of a percentage point in November to 7.3 percent. The increase was an expected seasonal change as Alaska moves toward the low employment months of winter. The comparable national rate (not seasonally adjusted) was unchanged at 5.6 percent. Dan Robinson, an economist with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, reported the numbers.

The number of unemployed Alaskans climbed from 23,419 in October to 25,093 in November, an increase of 7.1 percent. The change was slightly higher than last year's November unemployment increase of 5.0 percent, but smaller than two years ago when the increase was 7.6 percent.

Although most areas of the state saw higher unemployment numbers in November, Kodiak saw an especially large increase, jumping from 537 in October to 1,032 in November. The main reason for higher unemployment in Kodiak was the closure of the ground fish fishery.

Anchorage's unemployment rate increased just one-tenth of a percentage point in November to 5.0 percent. The only borough or census area with a lower unemployment rate than Anchorage was the Aleutians East Borough at 4.9 percent.

Fairbanks and Juneau saw rate increases of seven-tenths of a percentage point in November, each moving from 5.7 percent to 6.4 percent. With a November rate of 21.8 percent, the Wade Hampton Census Area continues to record the state's highest unemployment rate.

Wage and salary employment estimates for November showed a decline of 8,600 jobs from October. Seasonal job losses in the construction and seafood processing industries accounted for more than half of the decline. The Leisure & Hospitality sector also saw significant reductions, mostly in the accommodation industry. Since November 2002 the state has added an estimated 5,300 jobs to the economy.

URL Address: <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us>

Contact: Dan Robinson (907) 465-6036

Labor Force by Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	11/03	10/03	11/02	11/03	10/03	11/02	11/03	10/03	11/02	11/03	10/03	11/02
Alaska Statewide	341,737	344,988	322,532	25,093	23,419	25,408	7.3	6.8	7.9	316,644	321,569	297,124
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	196,968	195,614	184,459	10,944	10,340	11,332	5.6	5.3	6.1	186,024	185,274	173,127
Municipality of Anchorage	159,109	157,630	150,270	7,977	7,689	8,185	5.0	4.9	5.4	151,132	149,941	142,085
Mat-Su Borough	37,859	37,984	34,189	2,967	2,651	3,147	7.8	7.0	9.2	34,892	35,333	31,042
Gulf Coast Region	32,451	33,191	31,313	4,051	3,454	4,005	12.5	10.4	12.8	28,400	29,737	27,308
Kenai Peninsula Borough	21,004	21,779	20,554	2,472	2,375	2,735	11.8	10.9	13.3	18,532	19,404	17,819
Kodiak Island Borough	6,669	6,439	6,015	1,032	537	595	15.5	8.3	9.9	5,637	5,902	5,420
Valdez-Cordova CA	4,778	4,971	4,742	547	541	674	11.4	10.9	14.2	4,231	4,430	4,068
Interior Region	50,802	52,374	48,659	3,705	3,419	4,028	7.3	6.5	8.3	47,097	48,955	44,631
Denali Borough	1,298	1,359	1,258	201	219	218	15.5	16.1	17.3	1,097	1,140	1,040
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	44,590	46,009	42,641	2,839	2,611	3,076	6.4	5.7	7.2	41,751	43,398	39,565
Southeast Fairbanks CA	2,624	2,666	2,545	309	259	351	11.8	9.7	13.8	2,315	2,407	2,194
Yukon-Koyukuk CA	2,290	2,341	2,216	356	331	384	15.5	14.1	17.3	1,934	2,010	1,832
Northern Region	9,291	9,249	8,867	1,323	1,370	1,244	14.2	14.8	14.0	7,968	7,879	7,623
Nome Census Area	3,430	3,399	3,248	467	469	413	13.6	13.8	12.7	2,963	2,930	2,835
North Slope Borough	3,505	3,500	3,310	489	517	424	14.0	14.8	12.8	3,016	2,983	2,886
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,356	2,351	2,309	367	385	407	15.6	16.4	17.6	1,989	1,966	1,902
Southeast Region	37,545	38,532	35,745	3,059	2,839	2,956	8.1	7.4	8.3	34,486	35,693	32,789
Haines Borough	1,224	1,243	1,188	158	140	175	12.9	11.3	14.7	1,066	1,103	1,013
Juneau Borough	16,587	17,043	15,707	1,066	978	949	6.4	5.7	6.0	15,521	16,065	14,758
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,090	7,301	6,864	597	581	691	8.4	8.0	10.1	6,493	6,720	6,173
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	2,606	2,646	2,467	312	272	286	12.0	10.3	11.6	2,294	2,374	2,181
Sitka Borough	4,411	4,516	4,171	310	271	272	7.0	6.0	6.5	4,101	4,245	3,899
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	2,053	2,120	1,981	264	268	280	12.9	12.6	14.1	1,789	1,852	1,701
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	3,269	3,357	3,074	314	299	265	9.6	8.9	8.6	2,955	3,058	2,809
Yakutat Borough	305	307	292	38	30	38	12.5	9.8	13.0	267	277	254
Southwest Region	14,682	16,028	13,490	2,012	1,997	1,843	13.7	12.5	13.7	12,670	14,031	11,647
Aleutians East Borough	1,591	1,750	1,487	78	75	96	4.9	4.3	6.5	1,513	1,675	1,391
Aleutians West Census Area	2,473	2,667	2,316	265	222	287	10.7	8.3	12.4	2,208	2,445	2,029
Bethel Census Area	5,768	6,327	5,246	856	888	731	14.8	14.0	13.9	4,912	5,439	4,515
Bristol Bay Borough	495	528	449	61	47	50	12.3	8.9	11.1	434	481	399
Dillingham Census Area	1,751	1,905	1,623	217	206	213	12.4	10.8	13.1	1,534	1,699	1,410
Lake & Peninsula Borough	541	578	486	84	72	66	15.5	12.5	13.6	457	506	420
Wade Hampton CA	2,062	2,271	1,883	450	486	401	21.8	21.4	21.3	1,612	1,785	1,482

Benchmark: March 2002

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section. • Comparisons between different time periods are not

as meaningful as other time series produced by Research and Analysis. • The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has not made an active attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of the reference month. Due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska locations, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they have not conducted an active job search. These individuals are considered not in the labor force.